

The Claims Defining the Invention are as Follows

1. A tyre adapted to be fitted onto a wheel rim designed for pneumatic tyres, the wheel rim having a tyre support surface incorporating a bead seat on each side of the rim, each bead seat comprising an inner seat portion and an outer seat portion terminating in an arcuate portion defining the outer periphery of the wheel rim, the tyre comprising a radially inner portion engagable with the wheel rim, the radially inner portion comprising a band adapted to be supportingly received on, and releasably fixed with respect to, the outer periphery of the wheel rim.
2. A tyre according to claim 1 wherein the band comprises a rigid band.
3. A tyre according to claim 2 wherein the rigid band comprises a metal band adapted to be releasably fixed with respect to the outer periphery of the wheel rim by being welded thereto.
4. A tyre according to claim 1, 2 or 3 further comprising a cushioning structure provided on the band.
5. A tyre according to claim 4 wherein the cushioning structure comprises a resiliently deformable body bonded onto the band.
6. A tyre according to claim 5 wherein the resiliently deformable body incorporates a plurality of cavities separated by load-supporting walls.
7. A tyre according to claim 5 or 6 wherein the resiliently deformable body comprises a unitary mass.
8. A tyre according to claim 5 or 6 wherein the resiliently deformable body is of composite construction comprising a plurality of layers of material having different characteristics.

9. A tyre according to claim 8 wherein the body comprises an inner layer of higher resilience for cushioning, and an outer layer which is harder and more durable to provide good wear characteristics.
- 5 10. A combination of a wheel rim and a tyre, the wheel rim comprising a tyre support surface incorporating a bead seat on each side of the rim, each bead seat comprising an inner seat portion and an outer seat portion terminating in an arcuate portion defining the outer periphery of the wheel rim, and the tyre comprising a radially inner portion engagable with the wheel rim, the radially inner portion comprising a band adapted to be supportingly received on, and
10 releasably fixed with respect to, the outer periphery of the wheel rim.
11. A combination according to claim 10 wherein the band comprises a metal band adapted to be releasably fixed with respect to the outer periphery of the wheel rim by being welded thereto.
12. A combination according to claim 11 wherein the welding comprises welding,
15 at circumferentially spaced intervals around the band.
13. A wheel rim and tyre assembly, wherein the wheel rim comprises a tyre support surface incorporating a bead seat on each side of the rim, each bead seat comprising an inner seat portion and an outer seat portion terminating in an arcuate portion defining the outer periphery of the wheel rim, and wherein
20 the tyre comprises a radially inner portion engaged with the wheel rim, the radially inner portion comprising a rigid band supportingly received on, and releasably fixed with respect to, the outer periphery of the wheel rim.
14. A wheel rim and tyre assembly according to claim 13 wherein the band comprises a metal band releasably fixed with respect to the outer periphery of
25 the wheel rim by being welded thereto.
15. A wheel rim and tyre assembly according to claim 14 wherein the welding comprises welding at circumferentially spaced intervals around the band.

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16. A tyre substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
17. A combination of a wheel rim and a tyre substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
- 5 18. A wheel rim and tyre assembly substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.